CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

26

JULY 1978

President: Mrs R. Mills. Gen Sec : Mr M. Winterbottom.
Min Sec : Mrs B. Singleton. Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove.
Newsletter Ed: Mr E. Perkins.

General Meetings are held at the Castlemaine Education Centre (SEC Building, Mostyn St) at 8 p.m. on the second Friday.

Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the Club's sessions.

STREET TREES

There has been some discussion recently about selection and care of street trees. This article gives some suggestions.

1. Planning and selection of trees.

(a) Prepare a general planting plan for the city, so that plantings can be co-ordinated and so that a patchwork of isolated plants is avoided.
The general plan would need the services of a top grade landscape designer rather than a gardener.

(b) Rather than avenues of trees, consider cluster planting. Good examples of such planting can be seen on the McIvor Highway in Bendigo, at Fawkner near the cemetery and in Springvale Road. There are clusters at present in Turner St (just W of Hargreaves St), Campbell St (just E of Urquart St) and at the southern end of Bowden St. These local examples are perhaps accidental, but it is instructive to compare these with the straight-line avenues.

(c) Since the natural beauty of a tree is generally spoiled by lopping or heavy pruning, choose species that will not need heavy pruning. A wide range of native plants fits here. This is not to mean however, that only small-growing trees should be planted; there is room and a place for large and small trees.

(d) Some of the species presently planted are obviously not the most suited for Castlemaine; such species should not be included in future plantings.

(e) Plants need to be selected for the situation. Dense plantings near driveways and corners should be avoided.. Trees planted under power lines should have an expected maximum height of at least 3 metres less than the lowest power line.

(f) Experience shows that selection of suitable native plants will encourage native birds of a kind now rare in Castlemaine.

(g) In parts of Castlemaine, all of the trees are deciduous, so that the appearance is most unattractive in winter. If deciduous trees are planted they should be mixed with evergreen trees.

2. Planting

(a) When a street is planted, give residents a leaflet giving the name(s) of the plant(s) and a request for simple care. This could include regular watering in summer and weeding. Provision for watering should be made e.g. a shallow depression or agricultural pipe.

(b) Publicise plantings. Encourage residents to request that their street be planted. These plantings should conform to the master plan.

3. Natural vegetation

(a) Preserve existing natural trees e.g. Turner St alongside Kaweka, the eastern part of Parker St, Goldsmith Cres, Butterworth St etc. Avoid any interference with their natural growth. They will become even more beautiful as time goes on.

(b) In some parts regeneration can be found, for example in Hargreaves St near Kaweka and near Parker St. Preserve these. Possibly stout stakes to prevent damage or mowing would be a good idea.

4. Some areas for attention

Areas where planting could take place include the following.

(a) Split level streets - cluster planting ideal.

(b) Hargreaves St between Parker St and Kaweka.- cluster planting to blend with the present trees, natural vegetation and Kaweka.

(c) Pockets of land e.g. unused roads, particularly on the outer parts of the city. Perhaps individuals or groups of citizens might co-operate with the Council in planting these.

(d) Railway line area behind the squash courts - clusters of trees would help to break and soften the appearance of the railway line.

(e) Goal Hill Area - scope for considerable planting e.g. Finch St and Caroline St are suitable for cluster planting.

(f) Hall St, at the Hargreaves St intersection - if Hall St is to remain closed, do so by planting trees.

(g) Traffic Islands e.g. at Pattersons Bridge - plant low growing shrubs.

(h) Mostyn St up to the monument - cluster planting, but with care, taking into account the height when fully grown.

(i) Camp Cres - there is scope here for some imaginitive plantings.

5. New roads

There are alternatives to the traditional road in the centre.

(a) Consider making the road to one side (as has been done in Turner St), with a very wide planting strip.

(b) Where the traffic density is not high, consider winding the road through the trees.

Both of the above have been practised elsewhere with considerable success.

E. Perkins

A Newspaper Advertisement.

Wed. May 24, 1978

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the provision of the Land Conservation Act 1970, the Land Conservation Council proposes to carry out an investigation for the purposes of making recommendations on the uses of public land within, the Ballarat Area as shown on the map hereunder in order to provide for the balanced use of land in Victoria.

LAND CONSERVATION ACT 1970

Proposed Investigation of the Ballarat Area

LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL
VICTORIA
BALLARAT STUDY AREA

On completion of this investigation the Council shall publish a report of the investigation and will give notice in the Government Gazette and this newspaper of the publication of the report and indicate where a copy may be inspected or obtained.

The Council will, upon the publication of the report, invite any person or body to make submissions for the Council's consideration in respect to the use of public land in this area.

All inquires concerning this investigation should be made direct to the undersigned at the offices of the Council, 464 St.Kilda. Road, Melbourne, 3004.

I. KUNARATNAM
Secretary

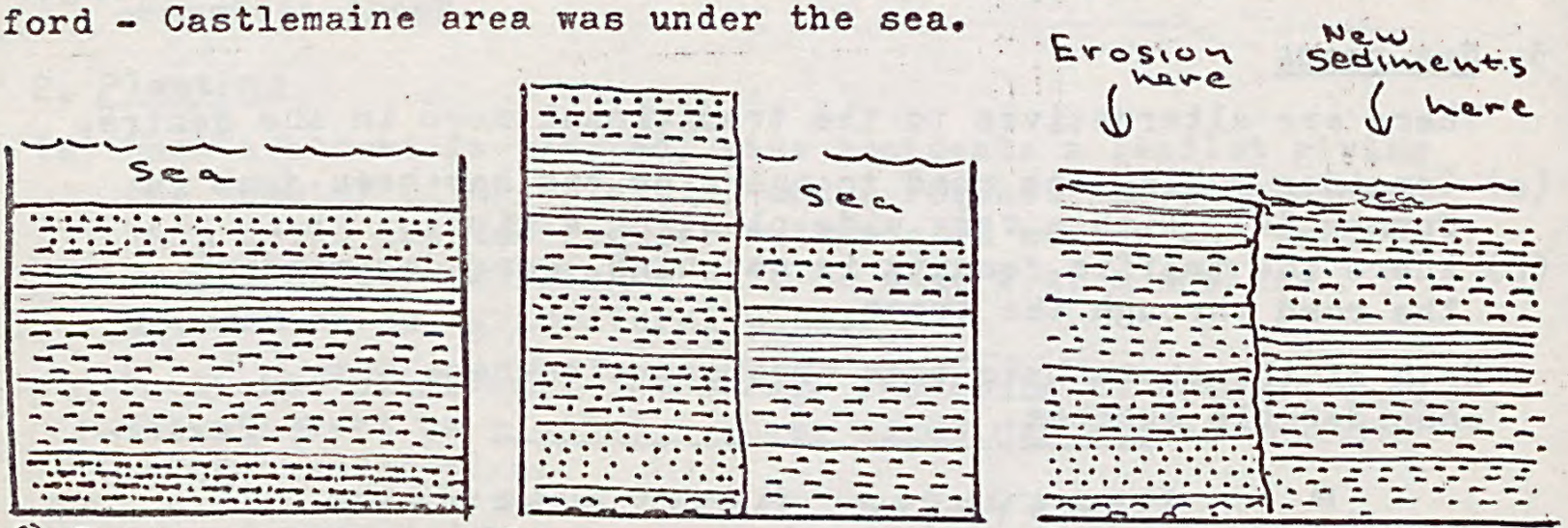
THE MUCKLEFORD FAULT

One of the most important of the geological features of Victoria is to be found crossing the Guildford Plateau.

The Muckleford Fault has been the scene of earthquakes and major earth movements for hundreds of millions of years, and a vertical movement totalling 1200 metres (about 3/4 mile) has occurred here.

The fault was not recognised until 1934, but is now known to stretch in a north-south line from west of Bendigo to Maude, about 130 km to the south.

Movement first started 4-500 million years ago while the Guildford - Castlemaine area was under the sea.



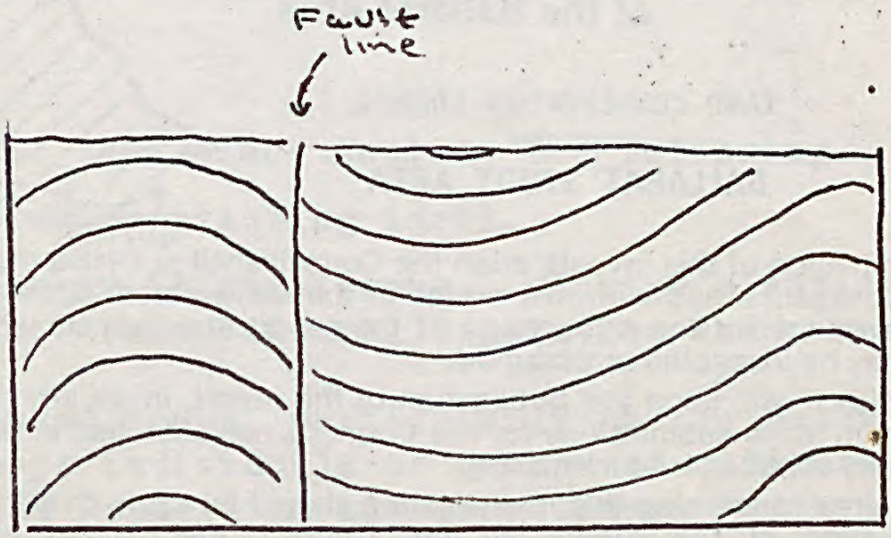
① Sediments deposited under the sea

② Faulting starts Newstead raised out of the sea

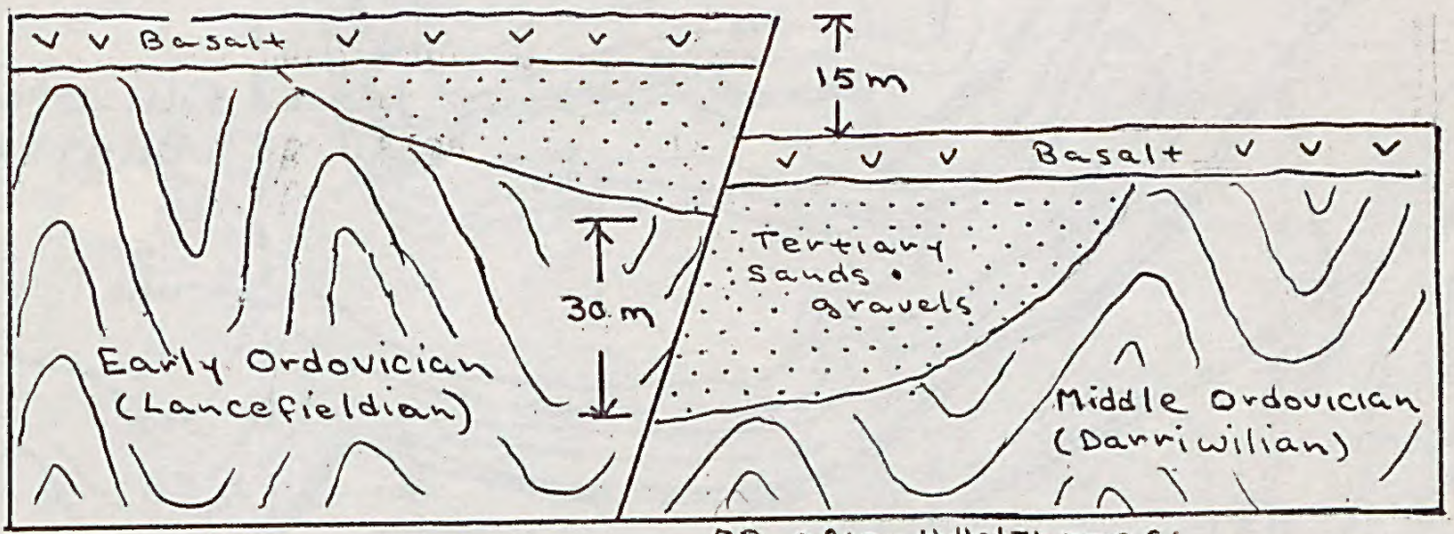
③ Erosion starts at Newstead, new sediments at Castlemaine. Sea retreats.

The erosion to the west (e.g at Newstead) and the deposition in the sea at Castlemaine both result in the rocks to the east of the fault being younger than those to the west. This age difference is also shown by the different fossils to be found in the two areas.

Associated with the faulting, gigantic forces also produced folding of the rocks. Erosion has since worn down the rock, but the folding also helps to give an age difference on either side of the fault



The 1200 metres movement is equivalent to a movement averaging 2.4 metre per million years.
About 3.3 million years ago, the Guildford plateau was part of the bed of the ancestral Loddon River and Muckleford creek, and the sands and gravels of the river-bed lie under the basalt. These are displaced by 30 metre along the fault line, and the basalt capping (about a million years old) is displaced by 15 metre. Thus the average rate of movement has increased recently from 2.4 metre to 15 metres per million years, and so we can perhaps expect a major earthquake here any day (or any hundred-thousand year!)



EP after Hills/Thomas

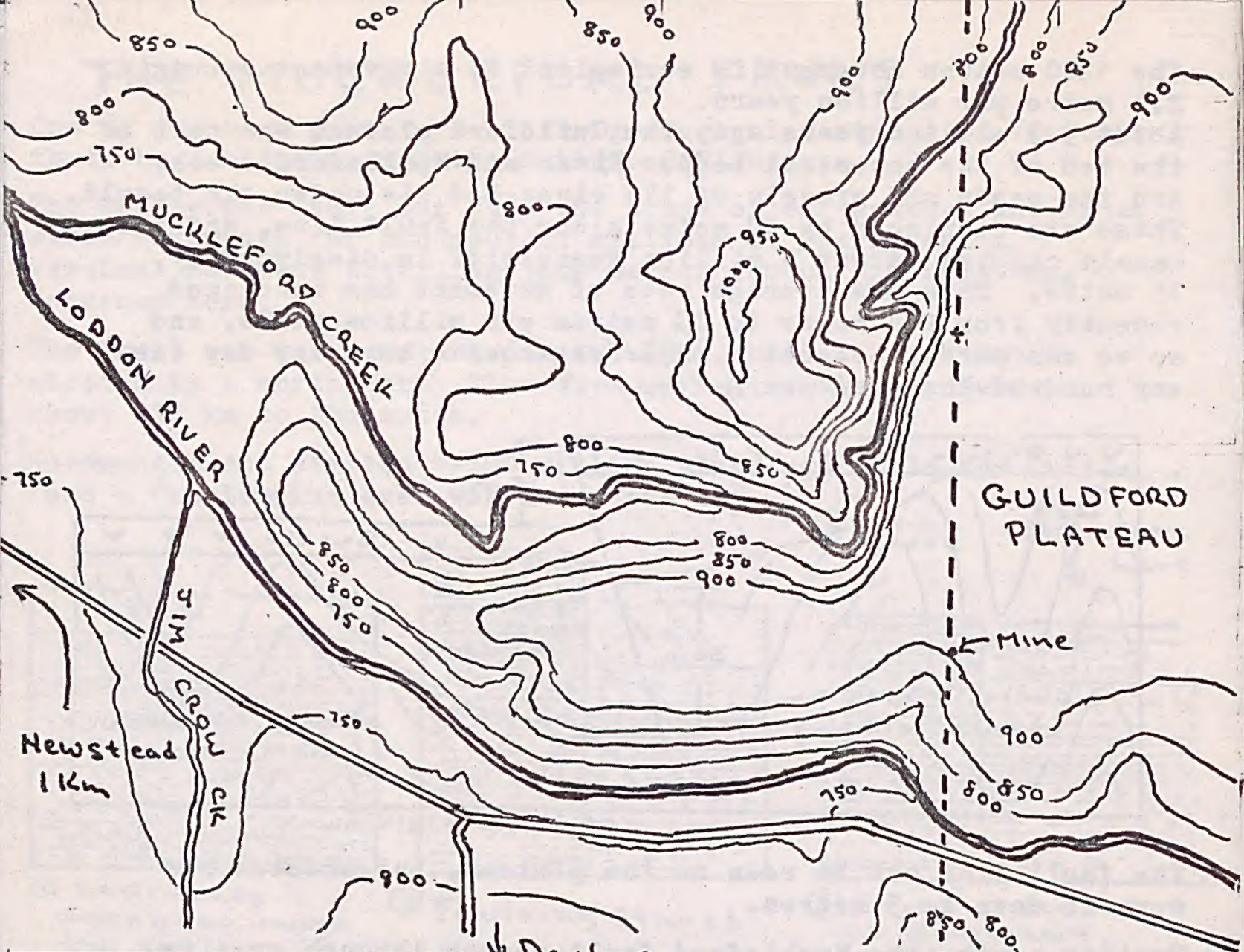
The fault line can be seen on the plateau, but erosion has worn it down to 5 metres.

Further north, the Muckleford fault passes through granite country. Here the granite has been broken and otherwise altered - perhaps the spot for another excursion.

(Thanks to a number of people who made maps and reports available. References are 1. Hills "Physiography of Vic," 1975 page 189, 2."Geology of Vic," Geological Soc of Australia 1976, Mr C Willman has made available a summary of recent research by Ceplecha and Wall on the Geology of the Chewton Region, which suggests that the thickness of sediments is less than generally supposed, which may in turn mean that the movement of the Muckleford Fault has been less than 1200 metre. This research would not alter the size of recent movements.)

Bush -walks in the August Vacation

The Club has been approached with the suggestion that we provide bush-walking as an activity for school children during the August School vacation. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

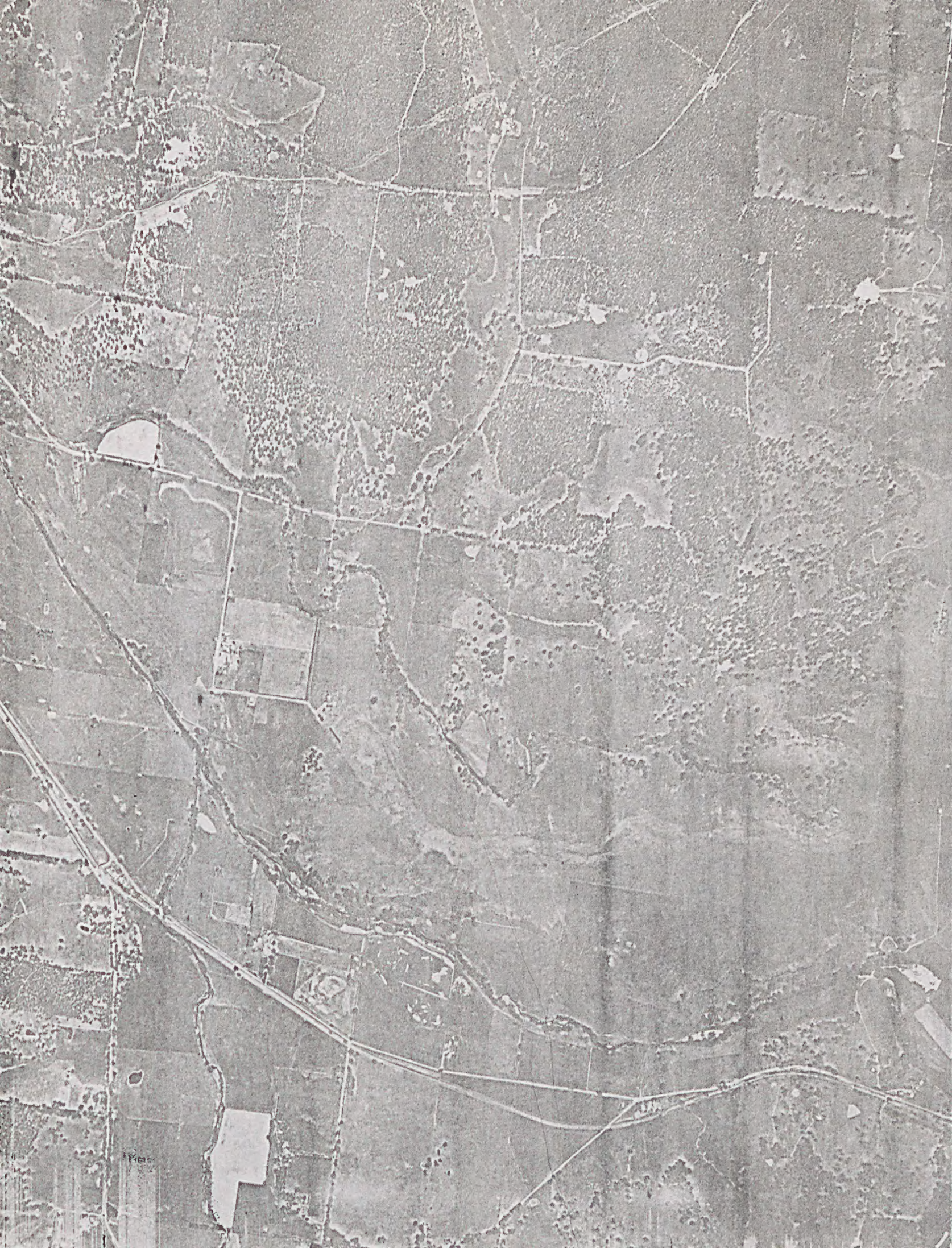


LOCALITY PLAN OF MUCKLEFORD GORGE

The steepness of the country is shown by the closeness of the contour lines. Note the flat Guildford Plateau and the very steeply sloping land just east of the farm Homestead.. The eastern bank of the gorge is composed of the Ordovician bedrock.
To the north, the Creek follows the fault line, keeping slightly to the east of it.

(The map is enlarged from the Castlemaine 1:63 360 map)

RIGHT: Aerial photograph of the Gorge Region.



MEETINGS

July Meeting Fri July 14
Speaker: Mr R. Smart
Subject: Fungi and the Bush
Mr Smart is a member of the Bendigo FNC and is well known for his beautiful photography

August Meeting Fri Aug 11
Film night. We have on order some excellent films from BHP
-Bush, Books and Breedon
-Australian Lizards
-Australian Snakes

LIFE MEMBER
Miss F. McIver has been made the first life member of our club.

Next Committee Meeting
Thursday 27 July, 8 pm, Ed Centre

Treasurer
Accounts paid - Ed Centre copying $17.90 and meeting rooms $15, leaving a credit of $51.15.

Subscriptions
Half-yearly subscriptions now apply. They are
Family $2.50
Single $1.50
Student/junior 50 ¢

CRB and tree-grubbing
We have written to the CRB about the grubbing of small trees along the Midland Highway past Guildford.

All members are invited to submit articles for the newsletter. They can be handwritten. Articles do not necessarily reflect the policy of the club.

EXCURSIONS

July Excursion Muckleford Gorge
Leave Ed centre at 1.30 pm or meet at Yapeen turnoff, Pyrenees Highway at 1.45 on Sat July 15
Leader is Mr Bransgrove.

Aug Excursion Mandurang Forest
Leave Ed Centre at1,30 pm on Sat Aug 12th. Leaders: F Blake and R. Mills

Sept Excursion Cobaw Ranges
Leave Ed Centre at 10.30 on Sunday Sept 10th. Leader is E. Perkins.

October 15 Lerderderg Gorge.
Meet at Blackwood PO at 11 a.m.
Leader is Mr W. Murphy.

October 28 Taradale
Afternoon excursion

November A walk in Vaughan - a sequel to the earlier walk.

Showday Walk This year's walk is being planned -possibly west from Taradale to Fryerstown.

September Maroondah SGAP camp-out, Muckleford. Details from Mr Sitch.

Street Trees
The Castlemaine Association has asked our opinion about the street trees in the city. The matter was discussed at some length at the committee meeting. Some of the points raised are included in the article in this issue.
The committee suggests that, in an effort to foster the planting of native trees in the city, that we donate a tree to each new home builder in the area. The opinion of club members will be sought at the next meeting.